

ACTIVITY 4.1

MIGRATION SCENARIOS

Andre – Port-au-Prince, Haiti

It is 1981. Andre and his family live in a village near Port-au-Prince. They do not believe in the policies of Haiti's government, so the government is persecuting them. Andre's family decides to go to America because they know their beliefs will be more accepted there. They have friends there who tell them work is available and Andre can attend school. Andre's family is not wealthy. They cannot travel by airplane because they do not have their government's permission to leave Haiti. They must leave most of their possessions, their friends and many family members behind.

Naomi – Russia

It is 1884. Naomi and her family live in Russia. Her parents have tried running several businesses, but all failed. The government has forced them to live in a restricted area because they are Jews. Naomi's father emigrated to America and has sent money so the family can follow him. In his letters, he tells the family that work is available, workers are treated with respect and all children are allowed to go to school. The family must leave behind many relatives and friends and all but a few of their possessions. Naomi, her mother and siblings do not speak English.

Nguyen – South Vietnam

It is 1975. Nguyen and her family live in a village 20 miles from Saigon. The war between North Vietnam and South Vietnam is almost over. It is a time of terrible hardship. Nguyen's father knows that when the war ends, his family must make many changes he does not want to make. Nguyen's family decides to migrate to America where they will be free. They have heard they will be able to find work and Nguyen can go to school. They are very poor with only a small amount of money to pay for their trip. They leave their few possessions and friends behind.

Alejandro – Central Mexico

It is 1910. Alejandro and his family live in a village in Central Mexico. A great revolution is going on, and it is very dangerous for Alejandro's family. They decide to leave Mexico and travel to America where it is safe and where they will be able to find work. Alejandro's family is very poor; they have only a few possessions that they can barter for transportation to America. They do not speak English, but they have relatives in the United States.

Thomas – Ireland

It is 1890. Thomas and his family live in southern Ireland. Thomas's father wants his own land to farm, but because there is a shortage of good farmland, Thomas's father has to lease land from a landlord. Thomas's family is very poor even though they work hard as farmers. The family hears that America has good farmland, so they decide to emigrate to the Oklahoma Territory. Although they do not have much money, they do have items they can barter for transportation.

Yuri – Ukraine

It is 1995. Yuri and his family live in Ukraine. Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, but now it is an independent country. Many families struggle to survive because food is scarce. Yuri's father and mother are well educated, but few jobs are available. They decide to emigrate to the United States, to an area where other Ukrainians are living and it is possible to find work. They also know their son can attend school and receive a good education.